ed to refer this report to the committee on the judiciary; but being opposed by Mr. H. Nelson, of Virgiria the motion was lost. On mo tion of Mr. Herbert, it was referred to a select committee.

The speaker taid before the house a communication from the navy department, accompanied by sundry documents in relation to the navy pension fund; which was referred to the committee on naval affairs.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

The engrossed resolution declaring the admission of the state of Il linois into the Union on an equal footing with the original states was read a third time: and, on the question, Shall it pass?

[Mr. Tallmadge, Mr. Poindexter, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Harrison & Mr. Storrs made sundry remarks on the subject, which want of room com pels us to omit, and the question on the passage of the resolution was decided as follows:]

Yeas 117-Nays 34.

So the resolution was passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence. The speaker laid before the house the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and a letter from Mr Forsyth, a member of this house,

from Georgia, resigning his seat therein. On motion of Mr. Storrs, 2500 addit onal copies of the President's message, and documents, were ordered to be printed for the use of

the house. On motion of Mr. Baldwin, the committee on the judiciary were instructed to enquire is to the expediency of passing a law to prevent the discontinuance of su ts in the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Pennsylva nia, on account of said court not having been held on the day prescribed by law, and for other purposes.

And the house adjourned.

Tuesday, Nov. 24. Mr. H. Nelson, from shoseame committee, to whom was referred the memorial of Matthew Lyon, praying a reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the prosecution under the act of Congress of July. 1798 commonly called the sedition law, he then being a representative in Congress from the state of Vermont-made a report thereon, that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

Mr. N. said, he felt himself constrained to state to the house, that, on this question. he had been in minority in the committee, & wish ed the subject to be fully laid before the house, He therefore moved that the rep rt be referred for considera ton to a committee of the whole house.

The motion was agreed to.

BANKRUPT LAW.

Mr. Hopkinson, und rthe instruction of the judiciary committee, reported a bill to establish an uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the U. States.

In introducing this bill. Mr. H remarked, that the bill was in form the same which he had the honour to introduce to the consideration of Congress at their last session. It was not his intention, he said to fat gue the house by a long argupresent; but he had thought it his duty to bring the subject once more before Congress, and have a vote taken on it-because the necessities of the people demanded it, and in the hope that, during the recess of Congress, the opinions of some gentlemen might have changed from reflection, or from reflection, or from information derived from others, of the pressing occasion for such a law. Mr. H. noped that gentlemen would not turn from this question with alarm, but that there would be a fair expression of the opinion of Congress on the subjeet. The bill was read and committed.

Mr. Harrison, from the committee to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill to increase the number of Clerks in the Department of war; which was twice read & com-

Mr. Johnson of Kentucky, from the select committee, to we om the subject was referred, reported a bill to authorise the election of a Delegate from the Michigan Territory to Congress, and extending the right of suffrage to the people of said territory; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Taylor introduced a resolution authorising the franking of the documents accompanying the Presi dent's late message; which was read

Mr. Herbert, of Maryland, move | three times, passed, and sent to the

senate for concurrence. Instructions were given to the committee of Post Roads to inquire into the expediency of establishing post routes.

On motion of Mr. Holmes of Mas sachusetts, another member was ordered to be appointed for the committee of Foreign Relations, in the place of Mr. Forsyth, resigned.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from Richard Bland Lec. late Commissioner of Claims, en closing a letter from Jacob Dox, of New-York, requesting compensation of the government, for services rendered as a Commissioner under the Claims Law. Referred.

Mr. Spencer of New York, moved that the committee appointed at the last session, to enquire into the Judic al conduct of the Judges of the District Courts of New York and Georgia, be discharged from the further consideration of so much of the business as relates to Wm. Stephens, of Georgia, in consequence of his resignation of the office of District Judge, by which the objects of that enquiry had been accomplished.

Wednesday, November 25. BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Spencer of N York, offered for consideration, the following re-

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inspect the books, and examine into the proceedings of the Bank of the United States, and to report whether the provisions of its charter have been violated or not. and particularly to report what ir the instalments of the capital stock of the said bank have been paid in gold and silver coin and in the funded debt of the United States, or whether they were in any instance, and to what amount, paid by the proceeds of the notes of stockhold ers discounted for the purpose; and also to report the names of those persons who have owned any part of the capital stock of the said bank, and the amount of discounts, if any, to such persons respectively, and when made; and also to report whether the said bank, or any of its offices of 'discount and d. posite have refused to pay the notes of the bank in specie on demand, and have refused to receive in payment of debts due to them or either of them, the notes of the bank, and whether the bank, or any of its offices of discount, or any of their officers or agents, have sold drafts upon other offices, or upon the bank. at an advance, and have recei ed a premium for such drafts; also the amount of the notes issued, pavable at Philadelphia, and at each office of discount respectively, and the amount of capital assigned to each office, together with the amount of th. public deposits made at the bank and at each office, and on account of the transfers thereof; and the total amount of bills and notes discount ed by the bank and its several offices since its organization. That the said committee have leave to meet in the city of Philadelphia, and to remain there as long as may be necessary; that they shall have power to send for persons and papers, and to employ the requisite clerks, the expense of which shall be admitted

gent fund of this house. Mr M'Lane, of Delaware, rose, he said, not to offer any opposition to the enquiry, but merely to request time to give to the subject of the resolution such a consideration as its importance deserved. It would be recollected by the House, that a resolution had passed the Senate during the last session, calling on the Secretary of the Treasury to lay before the Congress a particular account of the state and transactions of the bank. This report might be expected to be shortly laid before Congress; and in that report would perhaps be embraced all the information required by that resolve. Although rumors had existed, Mr. M'Lane said, with regard to certain transactions in the bank, he thought it would be well not to institute an enquiry hastily on the foundation of mere rumour. He wished the resolution to lie on the table for a day, or for a longer time, that the house might have time to reflect on it. He therefore moved, that it lie on the table, and be print-

and allowed by the committee of ac-

counts, and paid out of the contin-

Mr. Spencer said he had no sort of objection to this course; but he hoped that, after gentlemen should have reflected on it, they would be disposed to take it up and act on it at an early day.

Thursday, Nov. 26. The following Message was re ceived from the President of the U. States, by Mr. J. J Monroe, his secretary: To the House of Representatives of

the United States. I lay before the House of Representatives a report from the Commissioners of the public Buildings, made in compliance with a resolu tion of the Senate, of the 28th of January last, equiring a statement of the expenditures upon the Public Buildings, and an account of their progress, to be annually exhibited to Congress.

JAMES MONROE. Nov. 26th, 1818.

[The report from the Commissier transmits to the President the following statement of expenditures during the last year, and two state ments, from Mr. Bu finch and Mr Hoban, of the progress made in Public Buildings during the present

Amount of disbursements made by Samuel Lane, Commissioner of Public Buildings, from the 1st of October 1817, to the 1st of Oct. 1818. On account of the wings

of the Capitol . \$204,349 87 Do do centre of the Capitol 4.071 05 Do do President's house 44,150 34 Do do offices to fresiden s house 📝 1,273 74 Do do Grading Pres

sidents square 3 +42 19 Do do Adant. Executive offices 59 521 41 Do do Contingentexpenses . 3,871 82

Errors excepted: 320 80 42 SAMUEL LA E. Commissioner of Public Buildings. Wasnington, Nov. 23.

The message was read, and with its enclosures, referred to the committee on public buildings.

On motion of Mr. Middleton, the bill of last session respecting the illegal introduction of slaves into the United States was committed to the committee of the presents ssion having the subject under consideration.

CLAIM OF BEAUMARCHAIS. The House then resolved itself

into a committee of the whole. Mr. Smith of Md. in the chair, on the bill for the relief of the heirs and representatives of Caron de Beau.

The magnitude of this claim makes it an important one and the long interval of time which has elapsed since the debt was contracted, has at once tripled the amount of the debt, and involved in some obscurity the question of the justice of the claim. In the report of the committee to whom the subject was referred at the last session and on which this bill is founded the members of the committee were unanimous.

A report of a committee of a former Congress adverse to the claim, and equally elaborate, was also read through.]

After the reading of these documents-

Mr. Basset made a few remarks on the m. rits of this claim.

Whereupon the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again; and The house adjourned.

From the National Intelligencer. IN SENATE.

Tuesday, Nov. 24. The President laid before the senate a letter from the secretary of the treasury, transmitting his annual report to Congress.

MONUMENT TO WASHING TON.

Mr. Goldsborough gave notice that he should, on to morrow, ask leave to introduce a joint resolution for the erection of a monument over the remains of the late General George Washington, where they now lie; and the senate adjourned.

The N. Y. Post copies the account of the argest of Dr. Howell, published in the Patriot, and adds the following remarks:

"The Doctor Howell spoken of in the Baltimore article, is the same, who, six or seven years ago, was detected in this city, tried, convicted and sentenced to the State Pri son for fourteen years, for having committed a forgery upon the Merchants Bank, in the name of Ben

there was no longer any room for the following sections to him in the State Prison. The same reason was given for lately pardoning one convicted of highway robhery and sentenced for life; but who is liberated within a year. What society can exist under such system of things?

The ingenuity with which How ell catried on his villany here, al most defied detection .- And 1 would seem his schemes have not been less ingenious in Baltimore,"

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Annapolis, thursday, Dec. 5. 2

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

Saturday, November 21. A special meeting of the Society wis held this day, at the City Hotel, Washington.

The Hon. Bushrod Washington, President, presided. Mr. Burgess, the surviving Agent, deputed by the Society to explore a part of the West Coast of Africa, exhibited a variety of articles, as samples of the productions and manufactures of the country. He then read an address to the Society, on the subject of his Mission-after, which the ollowing resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the American Colonization Society are due to Ebenezer Burgess, for the ability, zeal and fidelity with which he has performed the duties assigned to him as one of the Agents of the Society deputed to explore the Western Coast of Africa.

liesolved, Tha the American Coionization Society che ish an arfectionate respect for the memory of their deceased agent, Samue! J Wills, and deeply regret the loss which they have sustained from his untimely death.

Resolved. Tota a committee of five members of the Society be ap pointed to superintend, with the aid of Mr. Burgese, the publication o the interesting address which he has just made to the Society, with such accompanying letters and do cuments as may seem to allustrate the object, and to present to the public the result of his recent mis-

The following gentlemen were appointed: Charles F. Mercer, Francis S. Key, Walter Jones, E .: B. Caldwell and Doctor Laurie.

From the Franklin Gazette. LAWIN FELLIGENCE. Mr. Bache,

The following paragraph is extracted from the Democratic Press of Saturday lance

"At a meeting of the friends of ROBERT C. MURRAY, held at the Rialto Tavern, N. 130, South Sixth Street, November 13 it was resolved that this meeting highly disbert C Murray for the expression o' opinions on the subject of RELI. GION, which were the opinions of Franklin and Jefferson, two of the greatest and best men, that ever lived in any age or country-and that we now adjourn to meet again on Monday evening next, at 7 o'clock, and that all enemies of R ligious Persecution be invited to attend at that meeting.

John Syng. secretary."

There is in our code, an unrepealed Act of Assembly, of the year 1700, which punishes with a fine of ten pounds, for the use of the poor, or an imprisonment at hard labour for three months, whomsoever shall wilfully, premeditately, and despitefully, blaspheme, or speak loosely and profanely of Almighty God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit or Scriptures of Truth." 1 Smith's State Laws, page 6.

Under this act, Robert C. Morray was indicted at the last Mayor Court for Blasphemy. His count sel entered the plea of "Not Guil. ty" on his behalf; and the case was, in the ordinary way, submitted to a jury of his country.

The evidence for the prosecution was brief, distinct and forcible. Two witnesses swore that they had heardthe defendant, at various times and places, utter the following language -"That Christ was a bastard-his mother a w- and the bible a pack

of lies. In his defences Robert C. Murray adduced some evidence of the general goodness of his character, and his counsel urged upon the court & jury, that the law, under which the jamin Butler-After remaining in indictment had been framed was in durance vile about three years, he constitutional-that it was incomvas pardoned and discharged from sistent with, and of course, repeal victim to hasty and criminal revenue confinement, for the reason, that ed by the constitution—and cited But for the blasphemer there is no

thelr'pasition. 3d Section of Article 9. all men have a natural and ind ible right to worship Almight according to the dictates of own consciences: that no ma rect or support any place of wo or to maintain any ministry a his consent; that no human r ty can, in any case whatever trou! or interfere with the rig conscience; and that no prefe shall ever be given, by law, to religious establishments or mo worship "

7th section. "The free co meation of thoughts and opi is one of the invaluable righ man; and every citizen may speak, write, and print on any jeut, being responsible for the

1st paragraph of the Schel That all laws of this Com wealth, in force at the time of ing the said alterations and an ments in the said constitution, not inconsistent therewith, &c. continue as if the said alterat and amendments had not made."

On the part of the Commonwea it was observed that the May Court of the city of Philadelp would hardly venture to adjudge act of Assembly unconstitution which had been published under sanction of the Legislature, and therwise recognised, since the ad tion of the constitution. That law was not inconsistent with provisions in that instrument, which reserence had been ma That a "wilful, premeditated, despiteful blasphemy " such as charged in the indictment & proby the evidence, could not be con dered as the worship of Almigh God according to the dictates conscience,' nor could it be deem 'a right of conscience'-nor suc free communication of thoughts a opinions? as is justly termed one the invaluable rights of man.' N ther the language nor the spirit the Constitution could be constru to sanction a licentious, unnecess ry, intrusive, and obscene course profanity, shocking to every uprig mind, and which, abstracted from religious helief, could be uttered t where without exciting sensition of pain, and of extreme repu

hance. The Court, in charging the jury merely remarked that as to the las no doubt could be entertained. The were not going to declare any ac of Assembly unconstitutional; an if the Derendant thought he coul-satisfy a higher tribunal that th offence with which he is charged i not indictable in this state, a writ of error would doubtless be grant ed for the purpose. At was certainly the right of every citizen to entertain what religious opinions he preferred; and if he felt inclined, to utter them in a proper manner, without restraint; but while one man exercises his rights, let him not offend against the rights of others-let him not intrude indecently and shockingly upon the sacred belief, and scruples of those who think differently from him. Tho expression of a mere speculative opinion, in argument or decent language, is no where censurable-bub? if the Jury think the defendant utbeen given in evidence, wantonly and maliciously, without cause and without provocation, they ought to convict him.

The jury without retiring from the box, gave in a verdict of "Guil"

Motions for a new trial, and in arrest of judgment, were then made by the defendant's counsel, which, after argument, were severally dismissed by the court, and on the following Monday the Recorder pronounced the subjoined

SENTENCE:

You have been convicted of the odious crime of blasphemy, an offence which, to your shame, and the honour of society, is as seldom heard of, as the depravity which excites to it, is hopeless and disgusting. Of the various crimes which, as guar-. dians of the public morals, it is our duty to punish, there are few which circumstances will not in some degree extenuate. The illegal possession of another's property, may be often traced to the pressure of want, whether resulting from misfortune or from unsuccessful crime, and the catalogue of offences from assault to murder, is generally supplied by the operation of real or imaginary wrongs, which animate the victim to hasty and criminal revenge.

The nature of his transion forbids the expectation of duble fame, and of contempora. felief from penury or despair, & and of being justified by motives Intribution for injuries, he lifts afeeble arm against the author of king, who pities his infirm ties, extends to him the hand of redisting The blasphemer's aim isental desolation; he seeks no det recompense than the infliction ligair, and to the honour of a rigin people, is rarely listened intwith horror and disgust. Burre painful even it it were bimble, to repeat the langua e in bich you have dared to blaspheme

de Sivieur of the World. It has

ken attempted to defend you by an

fration, which in all matters of rice and conscience, are secured the constitution. It is said the autitation of this commonwealth persons an implied repeal of the mute on which this prosecution is haded. But obvious indeed, must the course of implication, to degmine the repeal or unconstitutisality of a statute so salutary and ressary, before this court would jink themselves justified to abolish instraint which is to be found in te code of every christian people. brus it is sufficient that the law in mestion has not only never been mealed, but has actually been regized as still in force, by a reest publication of the acts of asgably, under the authority of the grature. In cases like the preat therefore, it is the duty of the munt to rely upon the positive prowion of the law, and to leave to desupreme tribunal of the state te resolution of those daubts which here been raised in this case. To

the cribunal let our decision be sub

Ton the terms of the constituis is not appear inconsistent with in provisions of the act of Assem-Every man Dossesses an un letted right to entertain and exrathis peculiar opinion on the met of religion, so far as he ex missit without an interference whithe religious privileges which aconstitution equally secures to beighbour. The liberty of with, in matters of this kind, is rigous to the liberty of the press. to guarantees to every citizen he fight to speak, write, and mion any subject, being responfor the abuse of that liberty.' he application of the law, ap Into us, to leave you without a the circumstance to excuse or mente your indecency, insolence drime. - So far from having emmed the impious and obscene ligage recited in the indictment, the heat of argument, or when maked by obsorition, you have studed on those, to whom it was padarly offensive, and whose hap-Monfidence in the Christian faith, tra your object to destroy. Nor intyou confined your malicious Statistion. Gi izens have been maked with your profanity and decency, in the public streets; and to complete your insolence, maire accosted them with scof-Pronte secosted them with some description the Speculate in time you should know that appeared to a cannot with impunity sport the feelings and happiness of THE CO or fellow citizens; common decomand good manners, as well as and religion forbid it .- You at be taught that respect even to prejudices of others, on so imstant a topic as that of religion, te to the humblest individual in kty. Can it be otherwise than ainal, maniciously to destroy the of his columence in revealed on, and rendering him a prey doubt and despair? The least dicious injury, to the person or

appose it less regardless of menlights, the most indispensable to in happiness. on a subject of so great importe, and on which you appear
tetto to have been so ignorant
thoughtless we advise you to
tiaformation. It cannot fail to is on your mind a conviction or errors and your danger, and duce you to abandon those ing sentiments, which, whe-Beriously entertained, thilesaly sported, will, without ment, terminate in intermi-

perty of another, is an object of

thment, and it is to accuse our

of the grossest inconsistency.

or age and infirmities render an object of compassion. It is eyou had reflected on the wickde of the past, and contempla- with the pr

ted the awful ture, for the d when, without be compelled t the tortures of the truth and

The offence been convicted be-dangerous. Court would i ed in imposing prisonment at sed by the I ment, althoug an of portunit deprive you d mation, of wh garnestly intr appeal to those invaluable rights of freedom, of speech, and universal

The judgm that you pay t use of the pomount of the authorises, wi cution.

FCBy the arri ship John Die

in 42 days fro of the Commo received the Chronicle' to inclusive, on to the 7th interesting le perie, by wh Congress, on decided that should evacu. ory in the co The Bulle

health on the state that the ase continue he had enj y cared refres Our latest here was an gration at (

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"I use the patch in int most import Congress is Yesterday at the Fith C tion of Fran was agreed t the Ambass: enna, was ti tant and ple Sovereign. news at an o I could not even learn t it rested u willing to ag lic by vague

ness of the t logy for seni y a few part Convention France is no following at upon:—The eave Franc present mon ginning of t and by such terwards de convenient (lied Powers